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Insurance Commissioner

Insurance Department Press Release

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TUFTS NH POINT OF SERVICE MEMBERS TO BE SERVED BY ALLIANZ LIFE AND ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Commissioner Paula Rogers announced today that members of Tufts Health Plan of New England's (TNE) Point of Service Plan, which is insured through Allianz Life Insurance Company (Allianz), will receive coverage, effective February 1, 2000, from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Hampshire (Anthem BCBS). In an agreement coordinated by Allianz and approved by the New Hampshire Insurance Department, Anthem BCBS will administer the coverage, and Allianz will continue to assume the underwriting risk.

There are approximately 9,000 TNE Point of Service members in New Hampshire. Currently, Allianz underwrites the Point of Service coverage and TNE administers the plan and provides access to the TNE contracted network of health services providers to Point of Service members. As of February 2, 2000, TNE will cease operations, and its assets will be liquidated. TNE cannot administer the POS plan after February 2, 2000, nor will Point of Service members have continued access to the TNE network of providers after that date. The arrangement announced today is in response to the imminent dissolution of the TNE provider network.

"This arrangement assures that members will receive the same and, in some instances, increased benefit levels while having access to virtually the same provider network," said Commissioner Rogers.

"Under this agreement, we will automatically transition coverage for employees on the two Point of Service Plans to Anthem BCBS's *BlueChoice* health plan," said Bob Mreen, Account Manager at Allianz Life.

Premium rates will not be affected by the transaction. Employer groups will be offered a full portfolio of Anthem BCBS products at their renewal.

"We look forward to welcoming members of Tufts to Anthem BCBS and providing them with seamless service during the period of transition," said David A. Jensen, President of Anthem BCBS in New Hampshire.

Allianz Life is a provider of life, health, and annuity products through independent distribution networks and financial institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

Anthem BCBS serves 5.7 million members in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Colorado, Nevada, Connecticut and New Hampshire. It is a member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

For more information, contact Monica Ciolfi of the New Hampshire Insurance Department (603/271-2261), Clark Dumont of Anthem BCBS (603/695-7202), or Angela Forsell of Allianz Life (1-800-328-5601 X36637)